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54 Microcapsules, their preparation and their use in photosensitive material.

57 Microcapsules are prepared by dispersing a hydrophobic oily liquid in a continuous aqueous phase. The hydrophobic oily liquid contains a pre-wall former and a chain extender. The chain extender is a polyhydric compound which is capable of reacting with the pre-wall former at a rate such that the chain extender does not substantially react with the pre-wall former prior to dispersing the hydrophobic oily liquid in the continuous aqueous phase. Capsule walls are formed around the droplets of hydrophobic oily liquid in the continuous aqueous phase.

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MICROCAPSULES, THEIR PREPARATION AND THEIR USE IN PHOTSENSITIVE MATERIAL

The present invention relates to a method for producing microcapsules and to microcapsules so produced. While methods in accordance with the present invention are useful in producing microcapsules generally, microcapsules prepared in accordance with our methods are particularly useful in photosensitive imaging materials of the type which employ a layer of microcapsules containing a radiation sensitive composition.

Imaging materials employing photosensitive microcapsules are described in our U.S. Patents 4,399,209 and 4,440,836.

In the aforesaid U.S. Patents images are formed by image-wise exposing a layer of photosensitive capsules to actinic radiation and rupturing the capsules typically by passing the imaging sheet containing the capsules through a pressure nip. The radiation sensitive composition contains a photohardenable or photosensitizable material which undergoes a change in viscosity or modulus upon exposure. For example, in the most typical 10 embodiments, the radiation sensitive composition contains a polyethylenically unsaturated monomer which polymerizes upon exposure, thereby causing the internal phase of the capsules to become harder. Due to the difference in the hardness of the capsules in the exposed versus the unexposed areas, only certain capsules rupture and release their contents. If the internal phase contains a dye precursor, or the microcapsules have a dye precursor associated therewith, the precursor is image-wise released, and a colour image is formed upon 15 its transfer to a developer layer. In previously disclosed embodiments, the developer layer may be present on the same support as the layer of capsules or a separate support.

As a microcapsule wall material, amine-formaldehyde polymers, and more particularly, melamine-formaldehyde polymers, have been used to encapsulate the photosensitive internal phase. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,608,330 discloses the encapsulation of photosensitive materials of the types described above in melamine-formaldehyde capsules. The process for preparing the microcapsules typically involves forming an emulsion of an oily internal phase composition in an aqueous phase, and enwrapping particles of the internal phase in a formaldehyde condensation product produced by in situ condensation of melamine and formaldehyde. This patent also discloses that a polyisocyanate may be added to the oily internal phase composition. The isocyanate forms a polymer pre-wall around the internal phase upon introduction into the aqueous phase.

Similarly, U.S. Patent No. 4,353,809 discloses microcapsules with melamine-formaldehyde or urea-formaldehyde capsule shell walls. The reference also teaches the addition of a polyvalent isocyanate, a polyvalent isothiocyanate or a prepolymer thereof to the internal phase prior to addition to an emulsion to form a pre-wall material around the internal phase. The presence of the isocyanate, isothiocyanate, or prepolymer functions to stabilize the emulsion and enable the production of small diameter microcapsules.

Although the above microencapsulation processes have proven to be of great importance, they still suffer from one or more drawbacks.

For example, the polycondensation of the isocyanate groups in forming the polyurea pre-wall takes a relatively long time, and any reaction which occurs is confined to the oil-water interface. It is believed that as soon as a thin shell of a pre-wall is formed, pre-wall formation stops. It is believed that it would be desirable for this 35 reaction to continue to form a thicker pre-wall, particularly when the microcapsules are used in photosensitive materials.

When the internal phase of the microcapsules contains a photosensitive composition, other problems must be considered. Free radical initiated reactions are generally relied upon to change the physical characteristics of the microcapsules and thereby form the image. These reactions are inhibited by oxygen. The microcapsule walls function as a barrier material to prevent oxygen from infiltrating the photosensitive composition. Upon exposing the material to actinic radiation, free radicals consume the oxygen present in the composition and reactions proceed. If oxygen readily re-infiltrates the composition, the photographic speed of the material is very poor.

We have found that the microcapsule walls should be water resistant. It is believed water can plasticize the wall material and reduce the wall's barrier properties. If the barrier properties are reduced, the amount of oxygen diffusion will increase and, in turn, the photographic efficiency of the internal phase will significantly decrease. Previous microcapsules, although generally effective, tend to lose their photographic speed when they are stored under high temperature, high humidity conditions.

Accordingly, there exists a need in the art for microcapsules having improved high temperature/high humidity characteristics (e.g., 30°C/80% RH).

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, microcapsules are prepared by dispersing a hydrophobic, oily liquid containing a pre-wall former in a continuous aqueous phase and subsequently forming polymeric walls around the dispersed internal phase. The invention is particularly characterized by adding a chain extender to the internal phase. The chain extender is believed to react with the polyisocyanate (or other

pre-wall former) to provide a thicker, less permeable pre-wall and thus provide microcapsules with better humidity and temperature resistance.

A chain extender is selected which reacts with the pre-wall former at a controlled rate. In addition, the chain extender should not react adversely with the contents of the internal phase and more particularly, in the case of photosensitive compositions, the monomer. By "controlled rate" it is meant that the reaction with the pre-wall former occurs at a rate such that the internal phase can be prepared, dispersed in the aqueous phase and then the wall formed. If the reaction between the extender and the pre-wall former occurs too quickly, the internal phase may not be readily dispersed in the aqueous phase and a poor wall may form.

Preferably, the pre-wall former is selected from polyvalent isocyanates, polyvalent isothiocyanates, polyvalent isocyanate adducts, polyvalent isothiocyanate adducts, cyanoacrylates, and isocyanato acrylates.

The pre-wall former may be a mixture of a polyvalent isocyanate and a sulfonated adduct of a polyvalent isocyanate.

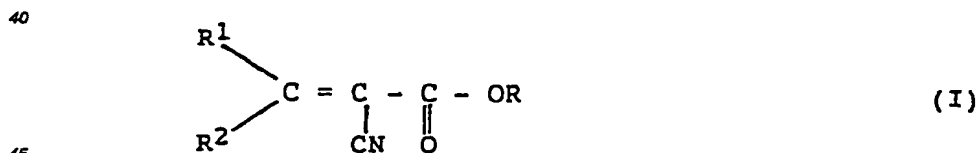
Certain embodiments of the present invention can be practiced by adding a chain extender to the internal phase or hydrophobic oily liquid in the methods described in U.S. Patents 4,353,809 and 3,897,361, the disclosures of which are to be regarded as incorporated herein by reference.

Representative examples of polyisocyanates and polyisothiocyanates useful in practice of the present invention include m-phenylenediisocyanate, p-phenylenediisocyanate, 2,6-tolylenediisocyanate, 2,4-tolylenediisocyanate (TDI), naphthalene-1,4-diisocyanate, diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethoxy-4,4'-biphenyldiisocyanate, 3,3'-dimethylphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate, xylene-1,4-diisocyanate, xylene-1,3-diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylpropanediisocyanate, trimethylenediisocyanate, hexamethylenediisocyanate (HDI), biurets of HDI, propylene-1,2-diisocyanate, butylene-1,2-diisocyanate, ethylenediisocyanate, cyclohexylene-1,2-diisocyanate, cyclohexylene-1,4-diisocyanate, p-phenylenediisothiocyanate, xylene-1,4-diisothiocyanate, ethylenediisothiocyanate and the like; triisocyanates such as 4,4',4''-triphenylmethanetriisocyanate, toluene-2,4,6-triisocyanate, polymethylenepolyphenyltriisocyanate and the like; tetraisocyanates such as 4,4'-dimethyldiphenylmethane-2,2',5,5'-tetraisocyanate and the like.

Adducts of these compounds can be prepared by reacting them with polyhydric compounds such as polyols, polyamines, or water in a known manner. In a preferred arrangement, the adduct includes an anionic or acidic moiety. Examples of anionic moieties are OSO_3^- , OPO_3^- , COO^- , SO_2O^- , S_2O_3^- , POO^- , and PO_3^- . Such functionalized isocyanates are generally prepared by reacting a compound having a pendant acid group with a polyvalent isocyanate or isothiocyanate. One such compound is 4-sulfophthalic acid sodium salt. This compound can be reacted with a polyvalent isocyanate such as hexamethylenediisocyanate or the like to produce a compound having a plurality of reactive isocyanate groups and a sulfonato group. Other useful compounds are sulfonated polyvalent compounds having labile hydrogen atoms such as sulfonated dicarboxylic acids, sulfonated polyols, etc. One sulfonated polyvalent isocyanate is commercially available from Mobay Corp. under the tradename Desmodur DA.

Also useful as pre-wall formers are cyanoacrylates and isocyanocrylates.

When a cyanoacrylate pre-wall reactant is selected, it is preferably of formula (I)



where R is an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a group of the formula (II)



where R^3 is a straight or branched chain alkylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and R^4 is an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, an acryloyl group, a methacryloyl group, a cyanoacryloyl group or R^4 is a moiety containing 2 to 4 isocyanato groups; and R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, a 2-furyl group, a 2-thienyl group, or a 3-thienyl group; and M is 1, 2 or 3.

Examples of alkyl groups represented by R include methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.; examples of alkenyl groups include butenyl, propenyl, and 1,3-pentadienyl; examples of alkynyl groups include propynyl and isobutynyl.

Cyanoacrylates may be prepared by reacting cyanoacetic acid with a diol to yield a hydroxyester. The hydroxyester is reacted with an acid chloride or an acid anhydride in the presence of sulfuric acid to yield a compound of the formula (III)



where R^3 and R^4 are defined as above. This compound is reacted with a ketone of the formula (IV)



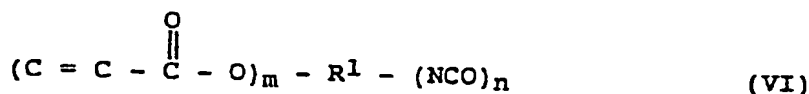
in the presence of ammonium acetate and toluene to yield the compound of formula (I) where R is defined as in formula (II). The BIS cyanoacrylate can be synthesized from cyanoacetic acid and a diol to yield the compound (V)



which is subsequently reacted with a ketone to yield the biscyanoacrylate. Alternatively, cyanoacrylates can be synthesized by the procedures described in the literature, for example, U.S. Patents 3,850,960 ; 4,012,402 ; 3,975,422 ; 4,003,942 ; 4,013,703 ; 4,041,061 ; 4,041,062 ; 4,041,063 ; and Japan published application 80/100351. A review of the synthesis of biscyanoacrylates is given in G.H. Millet, "Structural Adhesives," S.R. Hartshorn Ed., Ch. 6, p. 542 (1986), Plenum Press.

Examples of other cyanoacrylates which may be used in the present invention are set forth in U.S. Patent Nos. 2,721,858 ; 2,794,788 ; 2,763,585 ; 3,221,745 ; and 2,753,251. Also contemplated are other activated acrylates wherein the cyano group is replaced by other reactive groups such as trifluoromethyl, aldehyde, ketone, ester, carboxyl, nitromethyl and phenyl groups.

When an isocyanatoacrylate pre-wall reactant is selected, it is preferably of formula (VI)



wherein R^1 is an alkylene group, an arylene group, an arylenealkylene group or a polyether group and m and n independently represent 1, 2 or 3. Examples of suitable isocyanatoacrylates of formula (VI) include isocyanatoethylacrylate, isocyanatoethylmethacrylate, and a condensate of 2-hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate with a polyisocyanate.

The internal phase preferably also includes a diisocyanate or polyisocyanate compound in addition to the cyanoacrylate or isocyanatoacrylate pre-wall reactant.

The use of the aforesaid isocyanates, isothiocyanates, cyanoacrylates, etc., is not limited except that they are added to the hydrophobic oily liquid prior to the emulsification. They are added in an amount of about 0.005 to 10 parts per 100 parts of the hydrophobic oily liquid and preferably about 0.01 to 7 parts.

Functionalized isocyanates may be used alone or in combination with the non-functionalized isocyanates listed above.

It may be desirable to use a mixture containing 10 to 100% of the functionalized isocyanate.

Chain extenders useful in practice of this invention should be soluble in the oil phase, reactive with the pre-wall former at a controlled rate as previously explained, and essentially non-reactive with the other com-

ponents of the internal phase. The preferred chain extenders are those which are amphiphilic and can partition between the oil and aqueous phases with more in the oil phase and less in the aqueous phase, so that the "extended" polyisocyanate has a higher tendency to diffuse to oil/water interface and form a pre-wall surrounding the oil droplet.

5 In some cases synergistic effects may be achieved by using a combination of extenders. In some cases it is desirable to use a combination of a highly reactive extender such as Quadrol and a less reactive extender such as TMP.

Examples of useful chain extenders are diethylene triamine, trimethylpropane (TMP), triethanolamine, N,N,N',N'-tetrakis(2-hydroxypropyl)ethylene diamine (commercially available under the tradename Quadrol from BASF), and N,N,N',N'-tetrakis(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylene diamine (commercially available under the tradename EDA-160 from BASF).

In general, the chain extender is incorporated in the oil phase in a fraction of stoichiometric amount or up to about 1.5 times a stoichiometric amount based on the isocyanate.

15 It is preferred to use an anionic, cationic or nonionic surface active agent in emulsifying and dispersing the hydrophobic oily liquid because it accelerates the emulsification and prevents coagulation. Typically, the surface active agent is used in an amount of about 0.03 to 5% by weight, preferably 0.1 to 2% by weight, based on the hydrophobic oily liquid.

The surfactant is preferably a water-soluble anionic polymer, a water-soluble nonionic polymer, or a water-soluble amphoteric polymer. The solution of the surfactant prepared in the process generally will have a concentration of about 0.5 to 20 wt% of the hydrophobic oily liquid to be encapsulated, the hydrophobic oily liquid is in turn dispersed in the aqueous solution in an amount of about 1 to 60 wt% and the concentration for the aqueous solution of urea, melamine and/or formaldehyde is 0.2 to 40 wt%, preferably 1 to 20 wt%, based on the hydrophobic oily liquid.

25 Any natural or synthetic anionic polymer, e.g., polymers containing -COO- , $\text{-SO}_3\text{-}$ or like groups, can be used as a surfactant. Examples of such natural polymers are gum arabic and alginic acid. Examples of semi-synthetic anionic polymers are carboxymethyl cellulose, phthalated gelatin, sulfated starch, cellulose sulfate, and lignin sulfonic acid. Synthetic anionic polymers which can be used in this invention include maleic anhydride based copolymers (including those copolymers hydrolyzed), acrylic acid based homopolymers and copolymers (including methacrylic acid based homopolymers and copolymers), vinyl-benzenesulfonic acid based homopolymers and copolymers, and carboxy modified polyvinyl alcohols.

30 In a preferred arrangement, the internal phase is dispersed in a solution of pectin and sulfonated polystyrene. Typical examples of sulfonated polystyrenes useful in practice of the present invention are Versa TL500, Versa TL502B and Versa TL503, products of National Starch Co. Useful sulfonated polystyrenes are generally characterized by a sulfonation degree of over 85% and preferably over 95%. The molecular weight of the sulfonated polystyrene is preferably greater than 100,000 and more preferably about 500,000 but other molecular weights can also be used. The sulfonated polystyrene is usually added to the aqueous phase in an amount of about 1 to 6% by weight. The quality of this product has also been found to vary with the method by which it is manufactured such that certain sulfonated polystyrenes are better than others.

40 Emulsification is preferably conducted under conditions which afford an emulsion having an average particle size in the range of about 2.5 to 5.0 microns. The observed particle size of the emulsion is somewhat smaller than the particle size of the capsules produced. Typically, the emulsion is prepared by adding an oily material to be encapsulated to an aqueous phase containing pectin and sulfonated polystyrene while stirring or otherwise agitating the aqueous phase to achieve the desired emulsion particle size. The aqueous phase may also include other capsule wall forming materials in a manner well known in the art.

45 The capsule wall can be formed around the oil droplets in the emulsion using many known wall forming techniques.

Our present method is particularly directed to forming microcapsules in which the oily core material is enwrapped in an amine-formaldehyde condensation product. Such microcapsules are formed by *in situ* condensation of formaldehyde and an amine such as urea, melamine, dimethylol urea, and the like, or a pre-condensate thereof. The condensation product can be modified by the co-condensation of a polyhydric phenol such as resorcinol if desired.

50 Microcapsules can be prepared by forming an aqueous phase containing pectin and Versa TL502B, and adjusting the pH to suit the condensation reaction to be employed, followed by the addition of the oil phase. Generally, a pH of about 4.0 is useful in making urea-formaldehyde microcapsules whereas a pH of 6.0 is used in making melamine-formaldehyde microcapsules. To assist in dissolving the pectin, a small amount of sodium bicarbonate may be added to the pectin. This also acts as a buffer and improves ionic strength and thereby improves wall building characteristics. Upon dissolution, carbon dioxide is generated and the bubbles help to break up the pectin.

Blending is continued until an average emulsion particle size of about 3.5 microns has been achieved whereupon solutions of the amine and formaldehyde or a solution of a precondensate thereof are/is added to the emulsion and the capsule walls gradually form.

Among many well known encapsulation techniques that can be used in our methods are : Kiritani et al, U.S. Patent No. 3,796,669 for urea-resorcinol-formaldehyde capsules ; Forris et al, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,001,140, 4,087,376 and 4,089,802 for melamine-formaldehyde capsules. Our methods can be practiced using the aforesaid techniques by incorporating pectin and sulfonated polystyrene prior to emulsification of the oil.

One example of our process comprises fundamentally the following steps :

1. Preparing an aqueous solution of a water-soluble polymer. In preparing microcapsules with a urea-formaldehyde capsule wall, the urea may be added to the aqueous solution at this stage.
2. Emulsifying and dispersing the hydrophobic oily liquid to be encapsulated (to which a polyvalent isocyanate, a polyvalent isothiocyanate, a prepolymer thereof, cyanoacrylate, etc., and extender has been added) in the aqueous solution prepared in Step (1).
3. Adding an aqueous solution of melamine and formaldehyde or a precondensate thereof to the emulsion prepared in Step (2) in the case of forming melamine-formaldehyde capsule walls, and adding formaldehyde and optionally urea to the emulsion of Step (2) when forming urea-formaldehyde capsule walls.
4. Forming the capsule walls by raising the temperature of the resulting mixture while controlling the pH value and stirring, whereby the melamine and formaldehyde or urea and formaldehyde are polycondensed.

The condensation reaction proceeds under neutral or acid conditions, e.g., pH of 7 or less ; however, the reaction is preferably carried out at a pH in the range of 2.5 to 6.0. The temperature of the encapsulation medium should be maintained at about 10 to 95°C, preferably about 25 to 85°C and more preferably about 45 to 75°C.

Among the acid catalysts that may be used are low molecular weight carboxylic acids, e.g., sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, etc. ; and acidic or easily hydrolyzable salts such as aluminum sulfate, ammonium nitrate, ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, etc. Ammonium salts are preferred as they seem to provide a stronger and less permeable capsule. The ammonium salts are usually employed in an amount of about 2 to 20% by weight based on the amount of urea.

The amine and formaldehyde are preferably present in the encapsulation medium, whether as the free monomer or a precondensate, in a molar ratio of formaldehyde to amine of at least 1.5 and preferably about 2.0 to 5.0.

To reduce malodor and the incidence of skin irritation, when the polymerization reaction is complete, it is desirable to remove or react the excess formaldehyde. This can be accomplished by using any one of several known techniques such as the addition of phosphoric acid, urea, sulfite or bisulfite. These materials react with the formaldehyde to form a product which is easily removed from the medium. The addition of the urea or sodium sulfate to scavenge formaldehyde is preferably made in a single step after encapsulation and prior to storage. The pH and temperature of the medium should be adjusted for this reaction. The sulfite is preferably reacted at a pH of 6 to 8 at room temperature for about 2 hours. The urea can be reacted at a pH of 3 to 12 at a temperature of 30 to 80°C for 1/2 to 4 hours.

Suitable polyhydric phenols that may be added to the reaction system for co-condensation with the amine and formaldehyde to improve impermeability are resorcinol, catechol, gallic acid, and the like. The phenols may be added in an amount of 5 to 30% by weight based on the amount of urea.

Our process is advantageously used to produce microcapsules which may be provided on a paper or film support for use in photographic or pressure-sensitive recording papers. In the former embodiment, the core material is typically a substantially colorless color former dissolved in an oil. In the latter embodiment, the core material is typically a photohardenable composition containing a color former. U.S. Patents 4,399,209 and 4,772,541 disclose photosensitive record sheets which may be prepared using the present invention.

The invention is illustrated in more detail by the following non-limiting example :

50 Example 1

1. The following internal phase composition was prepared and preheated to 90°C to enhance dissolution of the dye precursor. The chain extender and the amount in which it was used are shown in Table 1 below.

| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| | TMPTA (trimethylolpropane triacrylate) | 120.00 g |
| | DPHPA (dipentaerythritolpentacrylate) | 30.00 g |
| | Photoinitiator | 0.65 g |
| 5 | DIDMA (diisopropyl dimethyl aniline) | 0.50 g |
| | Magenta dye precursor | 36.00 g |
| | Desmodur DA | Table 1 |
| | Desmodur N-100 | Table 1 |
| | Chain extender | Table 1 |

2. The continuous phase was prepared in ambient condition as follows :

8 g Versa TL502B was dissolved in 430 g water by stirring at 500 rpm for 15 minutes or more and 12.65 g pectin was dry blended with 0.24 g sodium bicarbonate and dissolved into the water phase by stirring at 1500 rpm for 105 minutes or more. The pH was then adjusted by dropwise addition of NaOH (4.8% solution) to pH 6.0.

3. Emulsification :

The external continuous phase containing Versa TL502B and pectin was brought to 3000 rpm mixing and the internal phase material (oil) was added into the mixing continuous phase. Mixing was maintained at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes after oil phase addition.

4. Wall formation :

246 g melamine-formaldehyde prepolymer aqueous solution was added to the emulsion while mixing at 1500 rpm and the pH was adjusted to pH 6.0 with H_3PO_4 (5% solution). The reaction mixture was covered and held at 70°C for 1 hour while mixing at 1500 rpm. A solution of 46.2 g Urea @ 50% solution was added to the reaction mixture and reaction was allowed to continue at 70°C for 40 minutes. (This step scavenges unreacted formaldehyde.) The stirring was adjusted to 500 rpm. The pH was adjusted to about 9.5 with NaOH (4.8% solution), the reaction vessel was covered and allowed to cool in ambient condition while mixing at 500 rpm.

Table 1

| <u>Sample No.</u> | | (Control) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|------|------|------|
| 35 | N-100 | | 10 g | 10 g | 10 g |
| | DA | | 0 g | 0 g | 0 g |
| | TMP | | 0 g | 0 g | 1 g |
| | Quadrol | | 0 g | 1 g | 1 g |
| 40 | Dmax | 21°/45% | 2.61 | 2.67 | 2.67 |
| | | 30°/80% | 1.71 | 2.55 | 2.53 |
| | Dmin | 21°/45% | 0.24 | 0.12 | 0.09 |
| | | 30°/80% | 0.36 | 0.20 | 0.15 |
| 45 | Log E ₁₀ | 21°/45% | 3.14 | 3.15 | 3.14 |
| | | 30°/80% | 3.59 | 3.45 | 3.41 |
| | Log E ₉₀ | 21°/45% | 2.90 | 2.91 | 2.90 |
| | | 30°/80% | 3.13 | 3.05 | 2.99 |

Table 1 compares the photographic characteristics (Dmax, Dmin, toe speed (Log E₁₀), shoulder speed (Log E₉₀)) of materials stored for 2 hours at 21°C and 45% RH with materials stored for 2 hours at 30°C and 80% RH. The data show with improved pre-wall Samples 2 and 3 have much better photographic characteristics (higher Dmax, lower Dmin, faster toe speed (smaller Log E₁₀), faster shoulder speed (smaller Log E₉₀)) than Sample 1 (Control) at high temperature/humidity (30°C/80% RH). Samples 2 and 3 have smaller changes in Dmax, Dmin, Log E₁₀ and Log E₉₀ due to environmental changes (21°C/45% RH and 30°C/80% RH). At 21°C/45% RH, Samples 2 and 3 have equivalent or better photographic characteristics.

Example 2

The materials described in Example 1 were subjected to an accelerated aging study in which they were stored 10 days in a 60°C oven. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

| Sample No. | | (Control) | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Dmax | Day 0 | 2.62 | 2.72 | 2.71 |
| | Day 10 | 2.60 | 2.65 | 2.64 |
| | Change* | -.02 | -.07 | -.07 |
| Dmin | Day 0 | 0.29 | 0.09 | 0.09 |
| | Day 10 | 0.32 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| | Change | .03 | .01 | .01 |
| Log E ₁₀ | Day 0 | 3.12 | 3.12 | 3.12 |
| | Day 10 | 3.29 | 3.23 | 3.23 |
| | Change | .17 | .11 | .11 |
| Log E ₉₀ | Day 0 | 2.88 | 2.88 | 2.88 |
| | Day 10 | 3.03 | 2.98 | 2.99 |
| | Change | .15 | .10 | .11 |

*Change: Day 10 @ 60°C minus Day 0.

The results in Table 2 show that the embodiments of photosensitive materials produced in accordance with this invention exhibit equivalent accelerated aging performance as the control ; however, this study does not subject the microcapsules to high humidity.

Example 3

Example 1 was repeated except the following internal phase compositions was used :

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| TMPTA | 105.0 g |
| DPHPA | 45.0 g |
| Photoinitiator | 2.5 g |
| DIDMA | 0.5 g |
| Cyan dye precursor | 18.0 g |
| Desmodur DA | Table 3 |
| Desmodur N-100 | Table 3 |
| Chain extender | Table 3 |

Table 3

| 5 | <u>Sample No.</u> | | (Control) | | |
|----|---------------------|---------|-----------|------|------|
| | | | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | N-100 | | 10 g | 10 g | 10 g |
| | DA | | 0 g | 0 g | 0 g |
| | TMP | | 0 g | 0 g | 1 g |
| 10 | Quadrol | | 0 g | 1 g | 1 g |
| | Dmax | 21°/45% | 2.67 | 2.65 | 2.75 |
| | | 30°/80% | 2.01 | 2.65 | 2.60 |
| | Dmin | 21°/45% | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| 15 | | 30°/80% | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.14 |
| | Log E ₁₀ | 21°/45% | 3.26 | 3.27 | 3.28 |
| | | 30°/80% | 3.60 | 3.42 | 3.47 |
| | Log E ₉₀ | 21°/45% | 2.85 | 2.89 | 2.87 |
| 20 | | 30°/80% | 3.20 | 3.00 | 3.06 |

Table 3 compares the photographic properties of materials stored 2 hours at 21°C and 45% RH with materials stored 2 hours at 30°C and 80% RH. Table 3 shows that the embodiments of photosensitive materials produced in accordance with this invention exhibit improved aging in terms of higher Dmax, lower Dmin, smaller Log E₁₀ and Log E₉₀ at high temperature/humidity (30°C/80% RH), and smaller changes in Dmax, Dmin, Log E₁₀ and Log E₉₀ due to environmental change.

Example 4

The materials described in Example 3 were subjected to an accelerated aging study in which they were stored 10 days in a 60°C oven. The results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

| Sample No. | | (Control) | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|------|------|
| | | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Dmax | Day 0 | 2.75 | 2.77 | 2.74 |
| | Day 10 | 2.69 | 2.66 | 2.70 |
| | Change* | -.06 | -.11 | -.04 |
| Dmin | Day 0 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.07 |
| | Day 10 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.08 |
| | Change | .01 | .02 | .01 |
| Log E ₁₀ | Day 0 | 3.23 | 3.24 | 3.25 |
| | Day 10 | 3.43 | 3.43 | 3.43 |
| | Change | .20 | .19 | .18 |
| Log E ₉₀ | Day 0 | 2.86 | 2.89 | 2.88 |
| | Day 10 | 2.99 | 3.04 | 3.01 |
| | Change | .13 | .15 | .13 |
| DR | Day 0 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.37 |
| | Day 10 | 0.44 | 0.39 | 0.42 |
| | Change | .07 | .04 | .05 |

*Change: Day 10 @ 60°C minus Day 0.

The results in Table 4 show that the embodiments of material produced in accordance with the invention exhibit equivalent aging performance to Control.

Claims

1. A method for preparing microcapsules which comprises : dispersing a hydrophobic oily liquid containing a pre-wall former in a continuous aqueous phase, and forming capsule walls around the droplets of said hydrophobic oily liquid in said continuous aqueous phase, the method being characterised in that said hydrophobic oily liquid contains a chain extender in the form of a polyhydric compound which is capable of reacting with said pre-wall former at a rate such that said chain extender does not substantially react with said pre-wall former prior to dispersing said hydrophobic oily liquid in said continuous aqueous phase.
2. A method according to Claim 1, further characterised in that said pre-wall former is selected from polyvalent isocyanates, polyvalent isothiocyanates, polyvalent isocyanate adducts, polyvalent isothiocyanate adducts, cyanoacrylates, and isocyanato acrylates.
3. A method according to Claim 2, further characterised in that said chain extender is a polyol or a polyamine.
4. A method according to Claim 3, further characterised in that said microcapsule walls are formed by forming in situ an amine-formaldehyde condensation product.
5. A method according to Claim 4, further characterised in that said pre-wall former is a polyisocyanate or an adduct thereof, and said condensation product is a melamine-formaldehyde condensation product.
6. A method for forming melamine-formaldehyde microcapsules which comprises : dispersing a hydrophobic oily liquid containing a pre-wall former in a continuous aqueous phase to form a dispersion, and adding aqueous solutions of melamine and formaldehyde or an aqueous solution of a prepolymer thereof to said dispersion to form a melamine-formaldehyde condensate which enwraps the oily particles forming said dispersion to form microcapsules ; the method being characterised in that a chain extender is dispersed in

said continuous aqueous phase together with said pre-wall former, the chain extender being a polyhydric compound which is capable of reacting with said pre-wall former at a rate such that said chain extender does not substantially react with said pre-wall former prior to dispersing said hydrophobic oily liquid in said continuous aqueous phase.

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7. A method according to Claim 6, further characterised in that said pre-wall former is selected from polyvalent isocyanates, polyvalent isothiocyanates, polyvalent isocyanate adducts, polyvalent isothiocyanate adducts, cyanoacrylates, and isocyanato acrylates.

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8. A method according to Claims 3, 6 or 7, further characterised in that said chain extender has a functionality of at least 2.

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9. A method according to Claim 8, further characterised in that said chain extender is selected from trimethylolpropane, diethylenetriamine, N,N,N',N'-tetrakis (2-hydroxypropyl) ethylenediamine, and N,N,N',N'-tetrakis (2-hydroxyethyl) ethylenediamine.

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10. A method according to any of Claims 2 to 4 or 7, further characterised in that said pre-wall former is a sulfonated polyvalent isocyanate or a sulfonated adduct of a polyvalent isocyanate or a mixture of a polyvalent isocyanate or an adduct thereof and a sulfonated polyvalent isocyanate or a sulfonated adduct thereof.

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11. A method according to any preceding claim, further characterised in that said continuous aqueous phase contains a water soluble anionic polymer dissolved therein.

12. A method according to Claim 11, further characterised in that said water soluble anionic polymer is a homopolymer or a copolymer of vinyl benzene sulfonic acid.

13. A method according to any preceding claim, further characterised in that said hydrophobic oily liquid is a photohardenable composition.

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14. A photosensitive material comprising a support having a layer of microcapsules containing a photohardenable or photosoftenable composition on the surface, said microcapsules being prepared by a process according to any preceding claim.

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 3715

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 08-02-1991 | Examiner KERRES P.M.G. |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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